

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4, 7, 10-15 and 18-20 are pending in this application.

By this Amendment, the title is amended. Claims 1, 5-7, 11, 12, 14 and 15 are amended, and claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 16 and 17 are canceled.

Applicant appreciates the Advisory Action's indication that the "more than 5% and less than 20%" feature is allowable over the art of record. The foregoing amendments address formal issues raised in the Advisory Action.

The Advisory Action indicates that the "more than 5% and less than 20%" feature "is not contained in the previously examined claims (a single claim as now presented and argued after final)" and thus raises a new issue. Applicant respectfully disagrees. The "more than 5% and less than 20%" feature was presented in former claims 3 and 9. Thus, no new issue is raised.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration (since the amendments incorporate features formerly recited in dependent claims); and (c) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

Applicant thanks Examiner Psitos for the courtesy extended to Applicant's representative, Mr. Luo, during the April 19, 2005 personal interview. The substance of the personal interview is incorporated in the following remarks.

The Office Action objects to the title. The title is amended. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the title is respectfully requested.

The Office Action objects to claims 1-3. Claim 1 is amended for better clarity, and claims 2 and 3 are canceled. Withdrawal of the objection to claims 1-3 is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3 and 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,567,367 to Ohno et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed with respect to claims 1 and 7, and is moot with respect to claims 2, 3, 8 and 9 in view of the cancellation of claims 2, 3, 8 and 9.

Ohno discloses a recording method using a phase change of a recording medium. See Fig. 1 and col. 9, lines 4-22. As discussed during the personal interview, Ohno does not disclose or suggest changing or reducing at least 5%, but no more than 20%, of a reflectance of a recording medium during a last quarter of a time period during which a cell of the recording medium is irradiated, as recited in claims 1, 7 and 11. Thus, Ohno does not disclose or suggest each and every element recited in claims 1 and 7. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 4 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ohno in view of JP 02-278535. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

JP-A-02-278535 discloses plural values of reflectance corresponding to the coloration of dye contained in a recording layer. See Abstract. JP-A-02-278535 does not disclose or suggest changing or reducing at least 5%, but no more than 20%, of a reflectance of a recording medium during a last quarter of a time period during which a cell of the recording medium is irradiated. Therefore, JP-A-02-278535 does not supply the subject matter lacking in Ohno.

For at least the above reasons, Ohno and JP-A-02-278535 do not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claims 1 and 7, and claims 4 and 10 depending therefrom.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 4 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) over WO 200127917. This rejection is moot with respect to the canceled claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 16 and 17, and is respectfully traversed with respect to the remaining claims.

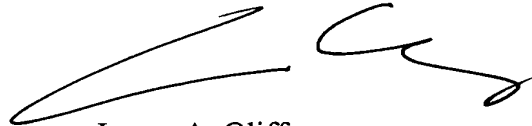
As discussed during the personal interview, WO 200127917 does not disclose or suggest changing or reducing at least 5%, but no more than 20%, of a reflectance of a recording medium during a last quarter of a time period during which a cell of the recording medium is irradiated, as recited in claims 1, 7 and 11. Therefore, WO 200127917 does not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claims 1, 7 and 11, and claims 4, 10, 12-15 and 18-20 depending therefrom. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 4, 7, 10-15 and 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) is respectfully requested.

The Office Action requests Applicant to provide information under 37 C.F.R. §1.105. Applicant's reply is as follows: (1) Applicant did not rely on WO 200127917 in drafting the present application. (2) The claimed subject matter in the present application distinguishes over WO 200127917 at least because WO 200127917 does not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in the claims, as discussed above. Furthermore, WO 200127917 does not appear to claim the "50%" feature recited in the claims of this application. (3) Applicant worked with the inventors of WO 2001/27917, but did not contribute to the claimed subject matter of that application, and therefore was not listed as an inventor. Likewise, the inventors of WO 2001/27917 did not contribute to the claimed subject matter of this application. Therefore, the inventorship in both applications is correct and need not be changed.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Gang Luo
Registration No. 50,559

JAO:GXL/hs

Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: May 23, 2005

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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